

Mental Health Services

MONTANA STATE PRISON
500 Conley Lake Road
Deer Lodge, MT 59722
406-846-1320

Mental Health Director: Jill Buck, RN, CCHP
Psychiatrist: Peter Edwards, MD
Psychologist: Katherine Flynn, PsyD

*National Commission on Correctional Healthcare
Accredited Department*

Mission Statement: The Mental Health Department at Montana State Prison is committed to delivering evidence-based services to meet the needs of incarcerated men who suffer from severe and persistent mental illness, acute emotional disturbances, and to prevent suicide and self-harm.

Services Provided:

Intake and Assessment

All inmates are screened for mental illness through Level 1 (initial) screens. If the Level 1 is positive a Level 2 assessment (comprehensive psychiatric history) will be done by a therapist.

If not done previously at MSP, intelligence screening is performed on all inmates. Referrals for mental health services are generated through the Level 2 assessments as well as through inmate and staff requests.

Medication Management

Psychiatric medications are prescribed by a psychiatrist. New inmates with psychiatric medications may have their meds continued at admission by a mid-level provider with follow-up by the psychiatrist. Inmates stabilized on medication may have follow-up care provided by a primary care physician.

Individual and Group Counseling

Clinical therapists and the clinical psychologist provide individual and group treatment to inmates with severe and persistent mental illness or acute emotional disturbances.

Group treatment is focused on skill building, symptom management, relapse prevention, health and wellness, and peer support.

Mental Health Rounds

All inmates in the two locked housing units are seen weekly at their door by the Psychiatric Nurse Supervisor. The purpose of rounds is to identify decompensation, for short-term counseling, and to act as the expert liaison for security staff.

Discharge Planning

A case manager is dedicated to mental health services to provide discharge planning to those offenders who leave MSP on parole, probation, or a flat discharge and have SDMI (Severe Disabling Mental Illness).

Mental Health Treatment Unit (MHTU)

The mission of the MHTU is to provide a safe, secure, supportive and comprehensive treatment environment for MSP inmates with serious mental illnesses. We have a 12 bed unit in HSU II that is monitored by our mental health technicians. The length of stay varies from a few days to a few years to permanent housing.

Inmates live on the units and participate in treatment programming which includes individual and group treatment. Treatment plans are individualized and are used to monitor progression through planned treatment strategies and interventions.

A gradual, supported transition is provided as inmates are able to move to normal housing units.

Recreation and Activity Therapy

A dedicated activity therapist for the MHTU completes individual recreational treatment plans for all inmates on the Mental Health Treatment Units. Daily activities include supervised cardio activities in the gym and yard, hobby in high support, and various skill-building activities scheduled throughout the week. The Activity Therapist also helps inmates find jobs in prison, coaches them on interviewing, and monitors their success in the job.

Emergency Services

Licensed staff are on call for emergency services 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. On-call staff provides consultation, planning, and various crisis management techniques.

Infirmery Admissions

Mental health staff utilizes the infirmery for psychiatric crisis stabilization, evaluation, and medication adjustment for severely mentally ill inmates or for inmates that are suicidal or psychotic and need close or constant observation.

Behavior Management Consultation

Mental health staff in collaboration with security staff approves and monitors the use of Behavior Management Plans (BMP's). BMP's are a comprehensive strategy to manage and end an inmate's repeated dangerous and/or assaultive conduct.

Housing Unit Clinicians

A therapist is assigned to each housing unit to provide routine mental health care to inmates within the housing units. Therapists answer kites (OSR's or Healthcare Requests) from their assigned housing unit and assess inmates referred by staff. Unit clinicians are the mental health liaisons for the unit management teams.

Wellness Checks

Inmates are referred for wellness checks by mental health staff. Wellness checks are done by mental health technicians and provide information about an inmate's ongoing mental status, work history, activities they are participating in and general information on the inmate's "wellness." Most inmates are seen once a month but can be seen up to once or twice a week depending on their acuity.

Cognitive Rehabilitation Unit:

A program opening soon to provide segregated offenders with a range of rehabilitative cognitive skills as well as programming that includes changing thinking errors, chemical dependency issues, and education. The CRB aims to help inmates successfully transition into general population.

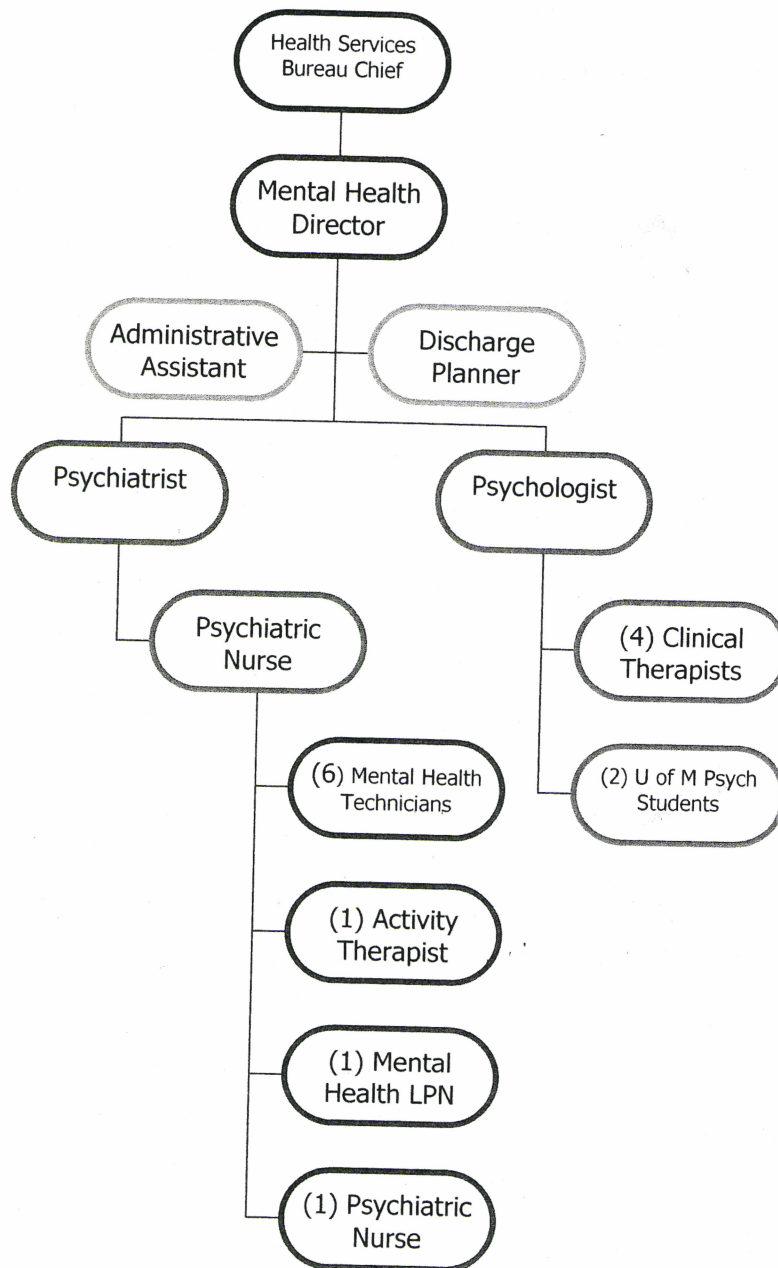
Philosophy

Services are prioritized to those inmates who have severe and persistent mental illness.

Inmates should be maintained in the least restrictive environment. Services are most effective when they are readily available and an inmate's needs can be matched to a specific service. Inmates also have the right to refuse offered treatment.

Inmates are held accountable for their behavior within the context of their mental illness. Services and behavioral interventions, while emphasizing personal accountability, must also be provided in a supportive environment that treats each person with dignity.

Mental Health Department Staff:



Mental Health Department Numbers:

Main: ext. 2464

Mental Health Director: ext. 2446

Psychiatrist: ext. 2224

Psychologist: ext. 2266

Psychiatric Nurse Supervisor: ext. 2514

Mental Health Treatment Unit: ext. 2317

Discharge Planner: ext. 2512

Mental Health Fax: 846-6046

Information on the web:

Department of Corrections

[Http://www.cor.mt.gov](http://www.cor.mt.gov)

Department of Corrections Intranet Site

[Http://www.my.cor.mt.gov](http://www.my.cor.mt.gov)

CON (Correctional Offender Network)

